

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 14, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced the arraignment today of JAVIER CHAVEZ TERRAZAS before Magistrate Judge Peter C. Lewis on an indictment charging him with three counts of bringing in illegal aliens for financial gain and three counts of transporting illegal aliens.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Joanna Baltes, who is prosecuting the case, the charges in the indictment arise from JAVIER CHAVEZ TERRAZAS' alleged transportation of seventy-three undocumented aliens in a tractor trailer on August 29, 2004. The tractor trailer was stopped for inspection at the Highway 86 checkpoint near Westmorland, California, and the 73 people were found concealed behind stacks of pallets in the trailer. The indictment alleges that the manner in which the undocumented aliens were being transported created a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to the aliens.

United States Attorney Lam emphasized that her office will continue to prosecute vigorously any individual who endangers the lives of undocumented aliens entering the United States.

DEFENDANT

JAVIER CHAVEZ TERRAZAS

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Counts 1, 3, and 5: Bringing In Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain
18 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii)
Maximum penalty: At least five years but no more than fifteen years imprisonment,
\$250,000 fine

Counts 2, 4, and 6: Transportation of Illegal Aliens
18 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)
Maximum penalty: Five years' imprisonment, \$250,000 fine

AGENCY

United States Border Patrol

An indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.